

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06227 222203Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3341

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6227

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: INDICATIONS OF PURGE IN PERONIST RANKS

REF BA 5532

1. WHILE BOTH PRESS AND PERONIST CONTACTS CONFIRM THAT FULL-SCALE REORGANIZATION OF PERONIST MOVEMENT AND GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO AWAIT SEP 23 ELECTIONS, THERE ARE ALREADY SOME CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT THE CONSERVATIVE WING OF THE MOVEMENT IS BEGINNING TO OUST LEFTISTS AND PLACE ITS OWN PEOPLE IN KEY POSITIONS. IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE GOVERNOR BIDE GAIN (A RIGHT WINGER WHO HAD MISREAD THE SIGNS AND JUMPED ON THE LEFTIST BANDWAGON) WAS FUEDING WITH VICE GOVERNOR CALABRO, A CONSERVATIVE LABOR LEADER, BIDE GAIN HAS NOW BEEN FORCED TO REORGANIZE HIS CABINET, OUSTING LEFTISTS SUCH AS ROLANDO GARCIA IN THE PROCESS.

2. FURTHER, THE NEW CONSEJO SUPERIOR OF THE MOVEMENT (SEE BA 5532) HAS OUSTED ALL THE PROVINCIAL HEADS OF THE MOVEMENT'S WINGS AND REPLACED THEM WITH "PROVISIONAL INTERVENTORS" - SUPPOSEDLY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE MOVEMENT IS FULLY REORGANIZED. IN MANY CASES, HOWEVER, THE EFFECT OF THIS ACTION HAS BEEN TO REMOVE PERONISTS WHO WERE OF LEFTIST TENDENCIES, OR WHO WERE SYMPATHETIC TO CAMPORA, AND TO

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 06227 222203Z

REPLACE THEM WITH THOSE OF THE RUCCI-LOPEZ REGA STRIPS.

3. COMMENT. BY SUCH METHODS AS THESE, THE PERONIST MOVEMENT
(AND TO SOME EXTENT THE GOVERNMENT) IS BEING GIVEN A MORE
CONSERVATIVE FLAVOR EVEN BEFORE THE REORGANIZATION BEGINS.
LODGE

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